

Council Workshop
August 3, 2004

Mayor Marse called to order the sewer workshop of August 3, 2004 at 7 pm.

Members Present: Mayor J.M. Marse, Council members Janice McLean, Earl King, Jean Arrant, Mike Helton, and Ray Jackson were present. Also present: City Clerk Diane Riley and City Attorney Clayton Adkinson.

Councilman Helton did the invocation and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Mayor Marse welcomed the audience to the meeting and explained the purpose of the meeting was to make arrangements to get sewer south of the City limits within the franchise area. The City has not put any sewer in, and Regional Utilities has offered to put the sewer in. The Council will make the decision if the City will keep the area or give it to a private utility.

Dewey Wilson of Regional Utilities made a presentation by showing the Council and the public a preliminary plan on a map in the Council room. He explained that Regional and the City **are not** in competition with one another. The County Commissioners have asked Regional Utility to assist in resolving a pollution problem around the bay. Regional Utilities has the bonding power to bond around 8 million dollars and they are fixing to build an affluent line from South Walton across the bay, then up Co. highway 3280, up Joe Dugger Road to an area northeast of Freeport to a spray field. If Regional did the sewer it would incorporate within their current plans to make sewer available for the southern section of Freeport's franchise area. He continued to explain that the cost factor had to include interest rates, cost of supplies, and labor cost. He could not give an exact cost of such a project with those factors. Mr. Wilson noted that Regional works at the direction of the County Commission and would assist the City with whatever help is needed.

Councilwoman McLean asked how much time would be needed to do the Bay Grove area. Mr. Wilson stated approximately 1 year for that area and he would like to start with a half-million gallon plant. Mayor Marse asked about the time frame for a new plant to be built. Mr. Wilson replied by saying once permitting was complete, a plant could be constructed in 8 months.

A discussion ensued with the public asking questions and making comments. The main concern seemed to be the monthly cost to the user. Mr. Wilson stated that the rates would be about the same as across the bay, due to the construction cost and liability of maintaining each customer. There maybe pre-construction incentives to existing homes in that area, yet he was unsure on the funding of the project.

With no further questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

J.M. Marse, Mayor

Diane Riley, City Clerk

Janice McLean, President of Council